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SUBJECT Czechoslovak Efforts to Obtain Ferrocolumbium
Tantalum and Rutile

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1. One of the most important items of the Metallimex import plan for 1953 is 10,000 kilograms of ferrocolumbium tantalum. It is planned to obtain this raw material at any price and irrespective of the kind of currency required for it.
2. Sir (fnu), manager general of Skarapoli in Prague, during his commercial journey to Sweden at the end of August and beginning of September 1952, tried to obtain rutile (titanium oxide) from the Swedish firm Ferrolegeringar.² [] believes he was not successful in obtaining it.

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1. Comment: Ferrocolumbium tantalum is needed as an alloy for the production of high-temperature steel.
2. Comment: Rutile is the raw material used for welding electrodes. Ferrolegeringar is believed to control the sale of Swedish ferroalloys.

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